

MIAMI BEACH

COMMITTEE MEMORANDUM

TO: Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee Members

FROM: Eric Carpenter, City Manager

DATE: November 8, 2024

TITLE: DISCUSS BEAUTIFYING WASHINGTON AVENUE BY ENHANCING LIGHTING AND STREETSCAPING ON WASHINGTON AVENUE

BACKGROUND/HISTORY

On June 26, 2024, at the request of Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez, co-sponsored by Commissioners Joseph Magazine, David Suarez, Alex Fernandez, and Tanya Bhatt, the Mayor and City Commission (City Commission) approved referral item C4C (Attachment A), to the Finance and Economic Resiliency Committee (FERC) meeting, to discuss beautifying Washington Avenue by enhancing lighting and streetscaping.

There had been similar requests brought up for discussion by City Commission members at the Public Safety and Quality of Life Committee (PSNQLC) and FERC, to enhance lighting on South Beach, however, neither request turned into favorable recommendations to the City Commission for approval, due to costs for installation and maintenance exceeding \$1 Million.

On September 20, 2024, FERC members were provided sidewalk and lighting updates along Washington Avenue. Public Works presented two proposals for wrap lights on median trees for the east and west sidewalks, including maintenance costs for a period of one year after installation. The breakdown for these costs were:

- Washington Avenue from 5th Street to 17th Street (median trees): \$272,532.00
- Washington Avenue from 5th Street to 17th Street, (east and west sidewalks). \$1,195,950.00

Public Works reiterated at Committee that funding for the proposed wrap lights (temporary lights) had yet to be identified. There was also a discussion about the \$10 Million G.O. Bond fund as part of the Washington Avenue Corridor Project. Said funding, once allocated, would be used to invest in capital improvements, permanent lighting and landscaping along Washington Avenue as a way to increase vibrancy and business retention through the construction of pedestrian and streetscape enhancements, community programming, and marketing. Wrap lights, however, since considered temporary fixtures, would not be eligible for G.O. Bond funding.

Discussions at Committee continued, focusing on how to reenergize Washington Avenue short and long term, using G.O. Bond funds. There were discussions regarding the need to have the Washington Avenue BID be involved in these efforts along with the City (there is a meeting scheduled between City staff and the Washington Avenue BID on November 4, 2024). FERC members made a favorable recommendation to move the item to the City Commission for approval to proceed with the installation of wrap lights on median trees on Washington Avenue, from 5th Street to 17th Street, in the approximate amount of \$273,000.00 (Attachment B). The City Commission meeting is scheduled on October 30, 2024, and approval of the wrap lights anticipated. FERC members also requested for the Administration to come back to their November FERC meeting to provide cost estimates for sidewalk repairs/replacement and cost for the replacement of lighting fixtures along Washington Avenue.

Estimated costs for both items are as follows:

- Sidewalk Replacement (from 5th to 17th Street): \$900,000 (red sidewalks)
- Pedestrian Light Fixtures Replacement: 637,000 (LED, 4K Acorn light fixtures)

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The total estimated cost for replacing sidewalk and light fixtures is \$1,537,000, funded through the General Obligation (G.O.) Bond.

CONCLUSION

The Administration recommends replacing the sidewalks and pedestrian light fixtures along Washington Avenue from 5th Street to 17th Street, utilizing GO Bond funding and incorporating input from the Washington Avenue BID.

Applicable Area

South Beach

<u>Is this a “Residents Right to Know” item, pursuant to City Code Section 2-17?</u>	<u>Is this item related to a G.O. Bond Project?</u>
Yes	Yes

Was this Agenda Item initially requested by a lobbyist which, as defined in Code Sec. 2-481, includes a principal engaged in lobbying? No

If so, specify the name of lobbyist(s) and principal(s):

Department

Public Works

Sponsor(s)

Commissioner Kristen Rosen Gonzalez

Co-sponsor(s)

Commissioner Joseph Magazine
Commissioner David Suarez
Commissioner Alex Fernandez
Commissioner Tanya K. Bhatt

Condensed Title

DISCUSS BEAUTIFYING WASHINGTON AVENUE BY ENHANCING LIGHTING AND STREETSCAPING ON WASHINGTON AVENUE